Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL)
Community Advisory Group (CAG) Biographies

Ross Berman
Thousand Oaks, CA

Ross A. Berman is a Senior Manager with Invitation Homes and lives in Thousand Oaks, CA. His interest in joining the CAG has been a lifelong journey. Born and raised in the west San Fernando Valley Ross attended summer camp for years at Brandeis Bardin Institute and hiked up to the SSFL fenceline numerous times to marvel at the power of the nearby rocket tests. Mr. Berman received his master's degree in environmental resource management and spent 15 years in the environmental consulting field managing toxic clean-ups, climate change and renewable energy programs, as well as water resource planning projects from Fresno to Washington DC and from Okinawa to the Palestinian Territories.

Richard Brandlin
Arcadia, CA

Richard Brandlin, M.Sc. Env. Mgmt., LEED AP is an environmental professional, Founder/Principal Largely Green Consulting. My interest in joining the CAG is both personal and professional. Personally, my dad was assigned to North American Aviation in the 50's and was one of the site personnel who was actually testing rocket motors, so I suppose it now comes full circle as I participate in the remediation process. Professionally, I am intrigued by the SSFL as a unique remediation site with a range of contaminants and contaminated media and a diverse, often contentious set of stakeholders. As one of the most investigated sites in North America, yet with little to show in the way of clean-up activities and a lingering sense of distrust among certain stakeholders, I feel I can bring my experience and outside perspective to the CAG to help move the process forward.

Sam Cohen
Solvang, CA

Sam Cohen is the Government Affairs and Legal Officer, Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians ("Tribe"). Mr. Cohen's interest in joining the CAG includes protection of Native American cultural resources on the site; Tribe as potential owner in whole or in part.

Diana Dixon-Davis
Chatsworth, CA

Diana has lived in Chatsworth, California since 1980. MA/ Demography/Epidemiology (Mortality, Fertility, Labor Force) U.C. Berkeley; BA/ Cultural Anthropology, Minor/Chemistry U.C. Berkeley. I am currently an active community volunteer and I have been elected to, appointed to, and volunteered on numerous school, community, city, county and state committees, boards, and commissions. I am representing the Chatsworth Neighborhood Council on this CAG. My interest in the SSFL-CAG is based on my concern with the Chatsworth community's health and safety and how the currently proposed SSFL Cleanup will impact traffic, pollution, and other health/ safety/ environmental conditions in the Chatsworth area.

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Paul Garrett
West Hills, CA

Paul Garret is retired and presently serving on the Board of Directors as Facilitator for the Mountain View Estates Mobile Home Park HOA.

Poly Georgilas
Bell Canyon, CA

Poly Georgilas is a lifelong West San Fernando Valley resident who is proud to call the Bell Canyon home. I am a small business owner, and a Real Estate Property Manager by profession, but a proud husband and father of two young daughters by inclination. My interest in the CAG for SSFL is simply to contribute to the discussion, regarding the impact that site mitigation efforts have on the community and its inhabitant's quality of life.

Linda Hays
Saugus, CA

Linda Hays was hired into Atomic International January, 1979. I worked as a bench machinist build 11. I bid on a nuclear mechanic job because it had automatic progression. As a labor grade 8 nuclear mechanic I worked in builds 9, 6, 5, and build 100. I got laid off. I worked as a janitor and a stock clerk. I returned to a nuclear mechanic labor grade 18. I worked at SCTL. I did clean-up at RMHF, building 20 and the Sodium Burn Pit. I was the Union Health and Safety Representative. We had a grant with the International UAW to do training. I worked on the hill a little over 30 years. I retired June 2010.

David Karchem
Chatsworth, CA

I was a software engineer and data analyst for 30 years in the healthcare insurance industry, until May, 2009 when I had a right-brain ischemic CVA. I became a volunteer/consultant in the Rancho Los Amigos robotic therapy program, and a consultant in the Rancho Los Amigos/USC ICT Human Engineering Laboratory. I'm a Board of Councilors member for the Division of Biokinesiology and Physical Therapy at the School of Dentistry Interaction Lab, Department of Computer Science, and USC Viterbi School of Engineering. I am also a technical contributor in the USC OPTT-RERC (Optimizing Participation Through Technology) - Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center for Technologies for Successful Aging with Disability) Programs. In September, 2010 I was selected as an at large member for the State of California SSFL Public Participation Group, applying my research and analysis skills to review the Toxic Cleanup Project analysis, results and plans for the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (a toxic ground and groundwater site affecting the San Fernando and Simi Valleys). In 2012, I was one of the CAG organizing committee members who help create this CAG.

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Christian Kiillkkaa
West Hills, CA

Specializes in landscape planning and garden design, native plants and habitat restoration specialist, Board of Directors member, L.A./Santa Monica Mountains Chapter, CNPS-California Native Plant Society. My interests and motivations for joining the CAG are to share and deepen understanding and appreciation of the site's diverse habitats, flora/fauna, and unique natural features as well as the history from the Chumash and other native Californians onwards through the aerospace era.
I would also like to assist providing a safe and transparent community forum for discussion of cleanup remediation options, human and all biota health protection, and advisory decisions.

Michael Kuhn
Simi Valley, CA

Dr. Michael W. Kuhn lives in Simi Valley, CA, is associated with the Rancho Simi Trail Blazers, and is a retired Environmental Planner. Membership on the Santa Susana Field Laboratory Community Advisory Group will give him the opportunity to address the interests of the surrounding communities.

Frank Lopez
Los Angeles, CA

Biography not available**.**

John Luker
Chatsworth, CA

John Luker is a 35 year resident of Box Canyon/Chatsworth. John is also the Vice-President, Santa Susana Mountain Park Association and Community Organizer / Resource Aide for California Department of Parks and Recreation. I'm joining the CAG because I want to make sure the resources at SSFL are preserved and the site cleaned to reasonable levels.

Leigh Nixon
Simi Valley, CA

Leigh Nixon is the President and C.E.O. of the Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce for the past 14 years; Leigh has been in the Chamber profession for more than 25 years. She holds a BA in Business and she received her A.C.E. (Accredited Chamber Executive) in 2002 from the Western Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives. Leigh serves and holds leadership positions in many Simi Valley and County wide organizations. She is also the Immediate Past Chairman of the Board for the Regional Chambers Alliance of Ventura and Santa Barbra Counties and Immediate Past President - SCACCE – So. CA. Chambers of Commerce Executives and she is a Delegate for Congressman Buck McKeon to the California Republican Convention.

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Barry Seybert
West Hills, CA

Barry Seybert freelances in the video / film industry as a Cameraman / Director of Photography. I have been a Board Member of the West Hills Neighborhood Council from its inception and have been a member of its committee that has studied and followed SSFL as well as other local similar sites.

Thom Slosson
Simi Valley, CA

Thom Slosson has lived in Simi Valley for 27 years. I am an engineering geologist, mainly work on landslides, earthquakes, flooding, development review, and distress to homes. I am currently on the Calleguas Municipal Water District Board of Directors, representing the Simi Valley area. I wanted to join the CAG because I am trying to keep aware of what has gone on and will be going on at the SSFL site.

Brian Sujata
Thousand Oaks, CA

Brian Sujata worked until 2007 as a Project Manager for Boeing at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory completing a variety of environmental-related assignments over a seventeen year period. Brian now works in the field of industrial automation, selling and installing vision systems and components used by a broad range of California manufacturing operations. He is interested in advancing the completion of environmental cleanup at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory site. Brian grew up in the nearby community of Northridge and now lives with his family in Thousand Oaks, California.

Alec Uzemeck
Simi Valley, CA

Alec Uzemeck is a retired engineer. I wish to learn about and influence the cleanup of the SSFL.

Christina Walsh
West Hills, CA

I live in West Hills at the two-mile mark and have been involved for about 12 years since I started cleanuprocketdyne.org. I started the CAG petition because I felt we needed a fair, inclusive process that encourages collaboration between the regulator, responsible parties and the surrounding communities so that workable, implementable, and sustainable decisions protecting public health can be made. My business backgrounds is as an analyst and have worked as an environmental advocate for the last twelve years and teach kids karate part-time to stay fit. I look forward to building this process together with all of you as well as the interested communities.

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Kathy Weiner
Simi Valley, CA

Kathy Weiner is a physical therapist and works in Simi Valley with the geriatric population.
I have been interested in the Santa Susanna Clean-up for some time and have followed it via meetings and newsletters. I have done some research and the topic, surprise, surprise, is more complicated than one would imagine. But, I love to study and research and get to the bottom on things. I am so very honored to be a part of the CAG.

Abraham Weitzberg
Woodland Hills, CA

Abraham Weitzberg is a partially retired consultant, primarily in the field of nuclear engineering, in which I have worked for over 50 years after starting out at SSFL. My interest in joining the CAG is to assist the community in understanding the technical issues relating to the cleanup, so that we can achieve a cleanup that is appropriate to the ultimate use of the site, is protective of the public health, the environment, and the SSFL cultural resources, is affordable, and can be completed in a timely manner.

Mary Wiesbrock
Agoura Hills, CA

Mary Wiesbrock is a retired State of California Clinical Laboratory Scientist and Chair of Save Open Space/Santa Monica Mountains (SOS).

Ronald B. Ziman
Bell Canyon, CA

As a 20 year resident of Bell Canyon, physician and among the closest neighbors of the SSFL, Ronald B. Ziman, MD, FACP, FAAN, has both a historical and health safety interest in this facility. Presently he is the Vice President of Bell Canyon's Homeowners' Association and it's Representative to the SSFL in addition to being the Chairman of the CAG Organizing Committee. Dr. Ziman, a Fellow of the American College of Physicians (FACP) and a Fellow of the American Academy of Neurology (FAAN), is triple board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine and the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. He has been on UCLA's faculty as well as in private practice since 1978. Formerly he was president of Northridge Neurological Center, director of Northridge Neurological Research, president of the medical staff (chief-of-staff) at Northridge Hospital Medical Center and founder and first medical director of their Joint Commission Certified Primary Stroke Center among many other positions. Presently he is the President and Chairman of the Board of the Northridge Foundation for Neurological Research and Education and directs its information and referral center since leaving the American Parkinson's Disease Association's Information and Referral Center as its medical director last year.